

The California Department of Education's (CDE) goals are developed in alignment with the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI) component with a focus on preventing the development and exacerbation of serious mental illness among children in California's educational system, and intervening when they are identified to be in need of mental health services. The Special Education Division (SED) focuses upon Community Services and Supports (CSS).

MHSA funds are being used to: promote understanding among Local Education Agencies (LEAs) and Special Education Local Plan Areas (SELPA's) about the linkage between early intervention and positive outcomes for students needing mental health services; support training and technical assistance efforts that result in education professionals' ability to recognize early signs of potentially severe mental illness; assist in efforts to identify effective programs, strategies and services for students in need of mental health services, increase communication and collaboration among schools and local county mental health on the MHSA as well as promote stigma and discrimination reduction, and disseminate information to the education community.

CDE - The SED staff activities reported to DMH for the period 7/1/08 – 12/31/08 are as follows:

Brief summary of the major activities and highlights performed during FY 08/09

- SED staff participated as a discussant on the Mental Health Services Act on July 8, 2009, with Stacey Wofford, DMH, at the California Family Empowerment Centers' meeting in Sacramento.
- SED staff applied, accepted, and participated in the Mental Health Services Act Oversight and Accountability Commission's (MHSAOAC) Co-Occurring Disorders (COD) Work Group. Commissioners David Pating and Beth Gould were leads for this work group. Various work group meetings and teleconferences resulted in numerous iterations of a document. Commissioners Pating and Gould presented a final version at the MHSAOAC during a November 2008 meeting in Sacramento. Pia Escudero, Assistant Director of the Los Angeles Unified School District Counseling Support Services, was also a member of this work group as were several mental health professionals, consumers, advocates, and other interested individuals.
- SED staff made an on-site visit on August 12, 2008, to New Leaf Services to the Community, a community-based organization in San Francisco, in August to discuss the mental health services to Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Questioning youth. New Leaf Services provides school based services in five schools. This program is not now funded through MHSA dollars and SED staff provided guidance on how to be a stakeholder in the City and County of San Francisco's planning process.

- CDE staff, accompanied by DMH staff, made an on-site visit to Berkeley High School and its School Based Health Services Center on August 18, 2008. Participants toured the facilities and learned about the physical and mental health services provided to at-risk students who are being addressed through Closing the Achievement Gap efforts under the State Superintendent of Public Instruction Jack O'Connell. The health center serves as a one-stop campus venue with trust and confidentiality with professionals and intern graduate students.
- SED staff initiated a telephone and e-mail survey of Child Abuse Councils regarding collaborative or interagency meetings to complete a portion of the CDE/SED work plan. SED staff also consulted with the Assessment, Evaluation, and Support Unit staff on the configuration of the matrix that the Department of Mental Health liaison desired as a preliminary step to the development of the listserv survey.
- SED staff prepared and presented at the Interagency Special Education Local Plan Area administrators meeting on October 2, 2008, on the Mental Health Services Act and SED's goal for the fiscal year of a short listserv survey with a comments section regarding interagency collaboration between special education and local county mental health staff.
- SED staff researched and began writing a brief narrative account of relationship between special education and local county mental health in California as a briefing paper for CDE, DMH, and other departmental staff.

Identify 2 or 3 activities or accomplishments that are considered highlights and help further the intent of the MHSA (e.g., achieving system change)

- SED staff actively participated in the research and discussion on the co-occurring disorders of mental illness and substance use disorders as a member of the MHSAOAC COD Work Group. MHSAOAC Commissioners Pating and Gould guided the group to produce an excellent, well-documented paper on the need for COD to be included in MHSA services. MHSAOAC commissioners applauded the completed document and the extensive work and energy that resulted in a product that received kudos and demonstrated collaboration across various fields of stakeholders.
- SED staff worked on the preliminary portion of its work plan to develop a listserv survey to SELPA directors and their accompanying SEACO staff. This is an on-going work in process and is proceeding at a good pace given the fiscal and time constraints of affected participants. Plans are being discussed for the listserv survey to be forwarded to respondents in the very near future.
- SED staff is working on a briefing document that provides an overview of the relationship between the education of students with emotional disabilities and mental health services and the structure of special education programs in California. This paper will provide historical,

legislative, and general information to CDE/SED employees and mental health staff.

Identify activities being coordinated with the local mental health system

- In light of the absence of an approved California State budget for the new fiscal year months and given that the DMH MHSAs liaison indicated that MHSAs county coordinators and local county mental health staff are overloaded, SED staff has limited the amount of contact with local mental health personnel.